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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/621,054

07/21/2000

Tatsuya Suzuki

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02/23/2006

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EXAMINER

BORISSOV, IGOR N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3639

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/621,054	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SUZUKI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Igor Borissov	<b>Art Unit</b> 3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2005.  
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,9 and 10 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,9 and 10 is/are rejected.  
 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

Amendment received on 11/28/2005 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 2-8 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. New Claims 9 and 10 have been added. Claims 1 and 9-10 are currently pending in the application.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheidt et al. (US 5,654,902).**

**Claim 1.** Scheidt et al. (Scheidt) teaches a method for recyclable components, comprising,

Selectively reading out information concerning a manufactured article being subjected to treatment from (database) (C. 4, L. 66 – C. 5, L. 4; C. 3, L. 6-11), and specific properties of the component parts (C. 3, L. 54-55);

extracting the component parts which include harmful or hazardous materials to be separated (C. 5, L. 12-13; C. 3, L. 54-55);

determining a treatment procedure to separate component parts of the manufactured article on the basis of the information concerning the manufactured article and the facilities of the treatment-entrusted factory (C. 3, L. 62-65; C. 4, L. 67 – C. 5, L. 7);

treating the manufactured article in accordance with the treatment procedure and checking the disassembled component parts through a medium of a detecting means (C. 5, L. 26-45);

determining that a treatment process for one of the component parts cannot be executed and extracting alternative procedure candidates contained in the information concerning the manufactured article and determining an altered treatment procedure for the manufactured article (determining, based on said information, how to treat said disassembled components, and if it is determined that said components are qualified for reuse, sending said qualified components for refurbishing, and if it is determined that said components include a high content of pure plastics or precious materials, sending (altering treatment process) said components to a dedicated recovery lines) (C. 5, L. 12-21).

Scheidt does not specifically teach that said "checking" step includes checking the disassembled component parts whether the relevant work has been completed.

However, Scheidt does teach checking the *disassembled* component parts through a medium of a detecting means (C. 5, L. 26-45), thereby indicating the fulfillment of the particular treatment procedure.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Scheidt to include that said "checking" step includes checking the disassembled component parts whether the relevant work has been completed, because it would advantageously allow to provide a dedicated quality check in more detail of each component part (Scheidt; C. 5, L. 14-15).

**Claim 9.** Scheidt teaches a method for recyclable components, comprising,  
Selectively reading out information concerning a manufactured article being subjected to treatment from (database) (C. 4, L. 66 – C. 5, L. 4; C. 3, L. 6-11),  
extracting the component parts, incapable of being treated by facilities installed in a treatment-entrusted factory, to be separated (C. 5, L. 12-13; C. 3, L. 54-55);  
determining a treatment procedure to separate component parts of the manufactured article on the basis of the information concerning the manufactured article and the facilities of the treatment-entrusted factory (C. 3, L. 62-65; C. 4, L. 67 – C. 5, L. 7);  
treating the manufactured article in accordance with the treatment procedure and

checking the disassembled component parts through a medium of a detecting means (C. 5, L. 26-45);

determining that a treatment process for one of the component parts cannot be executed and extracting alternative procedure candidates contained in the information concerning the manufactured article and determining an altered treatment procedure for the manufactured article (determining, based on said information, how to treat said disassembled components, and if it is determined that said components are qualified for reuse, sending said qualified components for refurbishing, and if it is determined that said components include a high content of pure plastics or precious materials, sending (altering treatment process) said components to a dedicated recovery lines) (C. 5, L. 12-21).

Scheidt does not specifically teach that said “checking” step includes checking the disassembled component parts whether the relevant work has been completed.

However, Scheidt does teach checking the *disassembled* component parts through a medium of a detecting means (C. 5, L. 26-45), thereby indicating the fulfillment of the particular treatment procedure.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Scheidt to include that said “checking” step includes checking the disassembled component parts whether the relevant work has been completed, because it would advantageously allow to provide a dedicated quality check in more detail of each component part (Scheidt; C. 5, L. 14-15).

**Claim 10.** Scheidt teaches said method for recyclable components, comprising, selectively reading out information concerning a manufactured article being subjected to treatment from (database) (C. 4, L. 66 – C. 5, L. 4; C. 3, L. 6-11), extracting component parts to be separated on the basis of information concerning value of the component parts (determining components including a high content of precious materials and sending said materials to dedicated recovery lines) (C. 5, L. 12-13, 20-21; C. 3, L. 54-55);

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determining a treatment procedure to separate component parts of the manufactured article on the basis of the information concerning the manufactured article and the facilities of the treatment-entrusted factory (C. 3, L. 62-65; C. 4, L. 67 – C. 5, L. 7);

treating the manufactured article in accordance with the treatment procedure and checking the disassembled component parts through a medium of a detecting means (C. 5, L. 26-45);

determining that a treatment process for one of the component parts cannot be executed and extracting alternative procedure candidates contained in the information concerning the manufactured article and determining an altered treatment procedure for the manufactured article (determining, based on said information, how to treat said disassembled components, and if it is determined that said components are qualified for reuse, sending said qualified components for refurbishing, and if it is determined that said components include a high content of pure plastics or precious materials, sending (altering treatment process) said components to a dedicated recovery lines) (C. 5, L. 12-21).

Scheidt does not specifically teach that said “checking” step includes checking the disassembled component parts whether the relevant work has been completed. Also,

However, Scheidt does teach checking the *disassembled* component parts through a medium of a detecting means (C. 5, L. 26-45), thereby indicating the fulfillment of the particular treatment procedure.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Scheidt to include that said “checking” step includes checking the disassembled component parts whether the relevant work has been completed, because it would advantageously allow to provide a dedicated quality check in more detail of each component part (Scheidt; C. 5, L. 14-15).

Also, Scheidt does not specifically teach that said “extracting” step includes extracting component parts to be separated on the basis of information concerning

*purchase prices* of the component parts regarded as valuable and a *cost associated with separation treatments*.

However, Scheidt does teach that said "extracting" step is conducted based on the determination of *value* of the component parts, said value been indicated by a *high content of precious materials* (C. 5, L. 12-13, 20-21); thereby indicating higher purchase prices of said component parts. Furthermore, Scheidt teaches sending component parts having a high content of precious materials to a *dedicated recovery lines* (C. 5, L. 12-21), thereby indicating *different cost associated with separation treatments* of said component parts compare to component parts not having high content of precious materials.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Scheidt to include that said "extracting" step includes extracting component parts to be separated on the basis of information concerning *purchase prices* of the component parts regarded as valuable and a *cost associated with separation treatments*, because it would advantageously allow to determine the suitability of said component parts for reuse in another product (Scheidt; C. 1, L. 15-18, 31-35).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 11/28/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that Scheidt does not teach determining whether relevant work, from a particular treatment procedure, has been completed, it is noted that Scheidt teaches checking the *disassembled* component parts through a medium of a detecting means (C. 5, L. 26-45). Said checking in Scheidt is conducted after completion of treatment operations, thereby indicating the fulfillment of the particular treatment procedure.

In response to applicant's argument that Scheidt does not teach extracting alternative processing procedures if a treatment process for one of the component parts cannot be performed, the examiner stipulates that Scheidt does, in fact, teach said feature. Specifically, Scheidt teaches determining, based on extracted from memory information, how to treat said disassembled components, and if it is determined that said components are qualified for reuse, sending said qualified components for refurbishing, and if it is determined that said components include a high content of pure plastics or precious materials, sending (altering treatment process) said components to a dedicated recovery lines) (C. 5, L. 12-21). That is, Scheidt explicitly teaches effecting an alternative treatment procedure upon determining certain condition.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

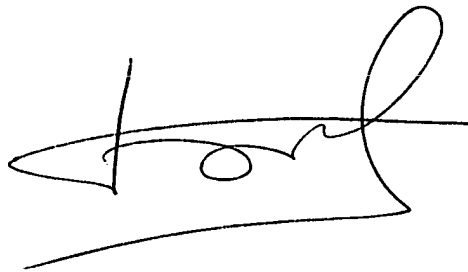
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Primary Examiner

Igor N. Borissov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Igor N. Borissov', with a large loop at the end.

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2/16/2006